

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /076 W
----- 056968

R 011410Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6128
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1926

PASS AMB KEATING

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS

1. ISRAELI PRESS MAR 31- APR 1 REPORTED VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR RESUMING ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS.
2. HAARETZ (GOLAN) MAR 31 REPORTED THAT KISSINGER TOLD AMB DINITZ AT THEIR MEETING A WEEK AGO THAT HE IS EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF "PROXIMITY TALKS" IN WASHINGTON UNLESS THE PARTIES PREFER ANOTHER VENUE. WHILE PREFERRING PROXIMITY TALKS, THE SECRETARY DID NOT RULE OUT OTHER MODALITIES: ALTERNATING DELEGATIONS TO WASHINGTON OR VISITS TO WASHINGTON BY HIGH-RANKING PERSONALITIES. BOTH THE SECRETARY AND SOME ISRAELIS BELIEVE THAT EGYPT IS IN NO HURRY TO GO TO GENEVA, ACCORDING TO GOLAN.
3. MAARIV (HARIF) MAR 31 REPORTED THAT WASHINGTON EXPECTS PROPOSAL FROM JERUSALEM THAT CAN LEAD TO RESUMPTION OF

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INTERIM SETTLEMENT TALK BEFORE GENEVA CONF MEETS.

CONSEQUENTLY, JERUSALEM HAS STARTED WORK ON FORMULA THAT WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT, WITH U.S. MEDIATING ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. JERUSALEM AND WASHINGTON AGREE EFFORTS BE MADE TO WORK OUT ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN SETTLEMENT BEFORE GENEVA OR AT LEAST GET NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY. JERUSALEM ALS CONSIDERING SENDING FM ALLON OR "THINK-TANK" HEAD MORDECHAI GAZIT TO WASHINGTON TO STUDY " NEW APPROACHES" SECRETARY MENTIONED IN HIS NEWS CONF LAST WEEK. NEW APPROACHES, ACCORDING TO HARIF, ENVISAGED RESUMPTION OF INTERIM SETTLEMENT TALK ON BASIS OF PROPOSAL WHICH HAD TAKEN SHAPE DURING THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS.

4. HARIF NOTES THAT WASHINGTON IS TRYING TO KEEP ITS CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL "DEMONSTRATIVELY FORMAL", AND POINTS TO "FACT THAT SISCO WAS CALLED IN ON KISSINGER-DINITZ MEETING IS TAKEN TO BE ONE INDICATION OF THIS."

5. HAARETZ (GOLAN) APRIL 1 REPORTED ANOTHER POSSIBILITY UNDER CONSIDERATION IN JERUSALEM FOR RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT: A BROADER AGREEMENT, UNDER WHICH ISRAEL WOULD MAKE A MAJOR WITHDRAWAL-- PERHAPS TO MID-SINAI-- IN RETURN FOR MEANINGFUL EGYPTIAN POLITICAL CONCESSIONS. REATIONALE OF THIS APPROACH IS BOTH SIDES ARE TEOO DEPLY ENTRENCHED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS TO MAKE RESUMPTION OF TALKS ON TYPE OF SETTLEMENT ENVISAGED AT RECENT NEGOTIATIONS PROFITABLE: WHILE EGYPT WILL NOT CONSIDER ANY FINAL SETTLEMENT THAT DOES NOT TAKE SYRIA OR THE PALESTINIANS INTO ACCOUNT.

6. MEANWHILE, GOLAN REPORTED, CONTINUOUSLY RECURRING STATEMENTS OF PRIMIN AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS ABOUT ISRAEL'S WILLINGNESS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS FOR INTERIM SETTLEMENT ARE MEETING WITH INCREASING CRITICISM, EVEN FROM WITH CABINET. OVERDOING FREQUENCY OF SUCH STATEMENTS,, IT IS ARGUED, MAY LEAD TO STRONGER U.S. PRESSURES FOR MORE MODERATE ISRAELI POSITION. VELIOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PEACE PLANS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TELAV01926
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750112-0559
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750492/aaaadfrx.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI PRESS ON RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006